

Mimulus Memo



A Botany Course with Glenn Keator ...in the White Mountains

by Nancy Nies

MARCH 2014

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EVENTS

MARCH

- 8 — Field Trip: CANCELLED
- 15 — Field Trip: CANCELLED
- 20 — Meeting, 7pm

APRIL

- 5 — Field Trip: Shell Creek Rd.
- 12-20 — Calif. Native Plant Week
- 12 — Field Trip: Carrizo Plain
- 17 — Meeting, 7pm
- 19 — Field Trip: Mill Creek
- 26 — B C. Garden Fest
- 26 — Field Trip: Nature Conservancy properties

MAY

- 3 — Field Trip: Bitter Creek NWR
- 4 — Field Trip: CALM
- 10 — Field Trip: Tejon Ranch
- 15 — Meeting, 7pm

IN JULY 2001, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION, Paul and I participated in a three-day botany course in the White Mountains. There were about twenty of us in the group, and our instructor was botanist

Glenn Keator. On our excursions, we had breathtaking views of both the Whites themselves and the Sierra to the west; learned about the Great Basin bristlecone pines (*Pinus longaeva*), the oldest living trees; and identified a hundred or so species of native plants, many of which were in bloom. Flowers were abundant that summer, and those three days provided us with an unforgettable experience.



Group botanizing in the low sagebrush (*Artemisia arbuscula*) on an alpine fell-field, with the Sierra in the background

All photos: Courtesy Nancy Nies



Pinus longaeva, Patriarch Grove

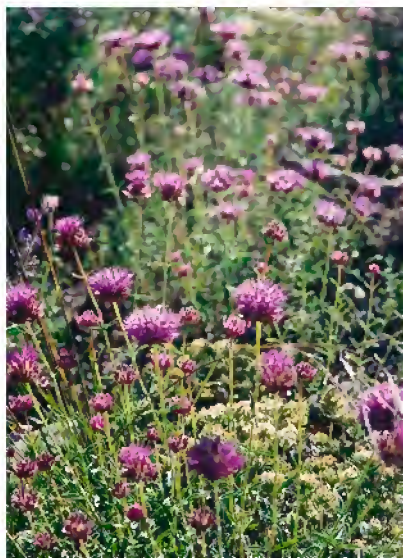
On the afternoon of July 18, we turned east at Big Pine and drove up into the White Mountains. When we arrived at the University of California's Crooked Creek research station (el. 10,200 ft.), we moved into our room in the dorm building, met the rest of the group and our instructor, and enjoyed the first of the delicious, buffet-style meals of our stay at the research station, which had its own chef on staff.

Over the next two days, we hiked among the awe-inspiring bristlecone pines, which grow on permeable dolomite at between 9,800 and 11,000 feet. We learned

A Botany Course (Continued)

that the oldest of the trees germinated roughly 5,000 years ago. We saw *Pinus longaeva* cones at various stages: a seed cone that would take two years to mature, a nearly mature seed cone, a mature seed cone,

the previous year's seed cone, and a pollen cone. We also noted that the ancient, gnarled trees have shallow, spiraling roots, and that they share their lofty domain with limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*).



Monardella odoratissima ssp. *parvifolia*, coyote mint

My notes and photos remind me of the rainbow of alpine and subalpine flowers we saw blooming at various locations between 10,000 and 12,000 feet: along Crooked Creek, on the Schulman Grove and Patriarch Grove trails, on the Barcroft plateau, and along Cottonwood Creek.

Among the more abundant and eye-catching blooms were Bridge penstemon (*Penstemon rostriflorus*), showy penstemon (*Penstemon speciosus*), wavyleaf

Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja martinii* var. *clokeyi*) coyote mint (*Monardella odoratissima* ssp. *parvifolia*), sulfur buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*) and ruby buckwheat (*Eriogonum gracilipes*).



Castilleja martinii var. *clokeyi*, wavyleaf Indian paintbrush

(*Hymenoxys cooperi*), desert evening primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa*), Idaho blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium idahoense*), and purple sage (*Salvia dorrii*), to name a few. Stand-outs on the alpine fell-field were the rare Parry's loco weed (*Oxy-*

tropis parryi) and a rare Townsend daisy (*Townsendia* sp.), as well as ponds containing water starwort (*Callitriche* sp.) and fairy shrimp.

On our third and last day as a group, we botanized as we wended our way back down to the Owens Valley through pinyon-juniper woodland and sagebrush scrub. Particularly memorable on that drive were a large clump of old man cactus in bloom (*Opuntia erinacea*), a healthy stand of prince's plume (*Stanleya elata*), a rare seep display of Mojave columbine (*Aquilegia shockleyi*) at Tollhouse Springs, and last but not least, a plump green hawk-moth caterpillar munching on a leaf of jimsonweed (*Datura wrightii*)—presumably with no ill effects! ☼

Thank you to:

Paul Gipe, for his excellent coordination of all the chapter activities.

Lucy Clark and Clyde Golden for their very enjoyable presentation at the January meeting on the flowers of Kern Canyon.

Maynard Moe for his very interesting presentation at the February meeting on the plants of Yemen, Socotra, South Africa, Namibia and Madagascar

Monica Tudor for the excellent articles on native plant gardening that she has contributed to previous editions of the *Mimulus Memo*

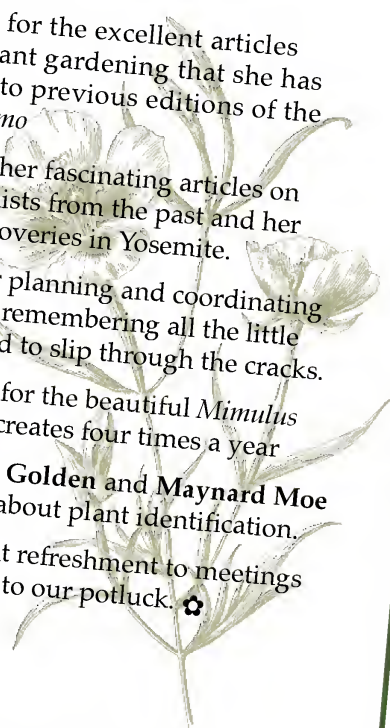
Nancy Nies for her fascinating articles on famous Botanists from the past and her botanical discoveries in Yosemite.

Patty Gradek for planning and coordinating field trips and remembering all the little things that tend to slip through the cracks.

Dinah Campbell for the beautiful *Mimulus Memo* that she creates four times a year

Rich Spjut, Clyde Golden and Maynard Moe for teaching us about plant identification.

All who've brought refreshment to meetings and contributed to our potluck. ☼



Spring is in the Air

by Monica Tudor

IS VALENTINE'S DAY CONSIDERED LATE WINTER or early spring? I suppose it depends on your point of view. Anyhow, when it is in the 70s, I'm inclined to early spring. (If we actually get a cold snap in March, I'll revisit the question.) The Bailey's *multiradiata* and the western redbud are already blooming and the *Salvia spathacea* is sending up flower stalks. The whirly blue sage is blooming and providing pollen for the honeybees. The aster *chiliensis* has come back from the frost and is a dense patch of dark green leaves about 6 inches tall. One of the two buckwheats seems to have

suffered from the frost but will probably make it. The other was protected under the palo verde tree and is looking good.

To me, planning is lots of fun so long as I remember the most important tool for planning is an eraser!

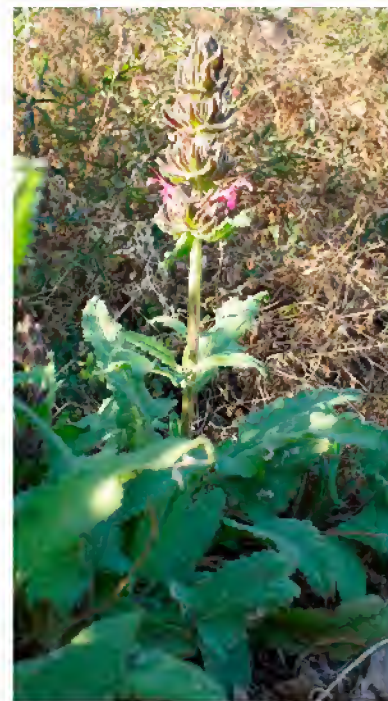
Spring makes me want to plant

things. I prefer plants in pots ready to go in the ground, because I like instant gratification. However, seeds can be pretty awesome too. The most gratifying for me are the California poppies. My favorite place to get seeds is at the Theodore Payne website (www.theodorepayne.org). They have all kinds of seeds, including specialty seed mixes. Don't wait too long to order if you are thinking about planting this spring; the seeds need to get into the ground quickly.

There's barely more time to put plants in the ground. The **Las Pilitas** folks say you can plant year-round,

which is true, but for me here in Bakersfield the best time for successful planting is early spring or late fall. I've been thinking of adding to my California garden. There is a 25' x 25' square that is sandy loam, fairly alkaline, and currently has no irrigation to it. Although it was a horse pen back in the day, it wasn't much used so there's hardly any organic matter in it. Today, I cleared off the accumulation of garden leftovers: pots and boards, old picnic tables and the like. Then the few weeds that somehow grew with only the bit of rain we've gotten were raked up. It is being watered a bit to mimic winter rains and hopefully will be planted within the next few days.

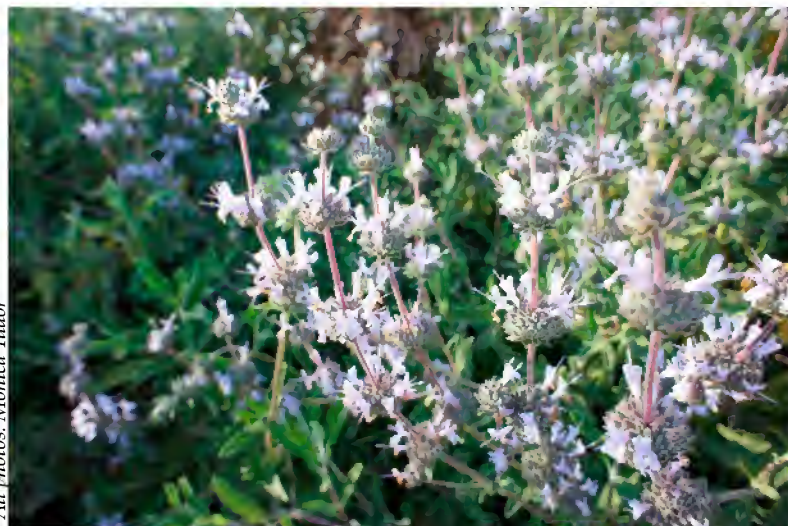
In the meantime, I'll draw up a plan that will merge the old garden with the new garden, utilizing the dozen, gallon size pots of various sages, penstemons, a *Zauschneria*, and



Salvia spathacea, hummingbird sage



Cercis occidentalis, western redbud



Salvia clevelandii "Whirly Blue", whirly blue sage

two manzanitas acquired from Las Pilitas on Saturday's field trip. To me, planning is lots of fun so long as I remember the most important tool for planning is an eraser! I like to plot out different versions of the space and compare different plants. I'll need more plants eventually, and a good source will be the **Bakersfield College Garden Fest** where the Kern Chapter of CNPS will be selling plants. Shameless plug: come and support the club! Of course I'll keep you all posted on the newest additions, so stay tuned. 🌸

FIELD TRIPS

by Lucy Clark, Patty and Dale Gradek

KERN CNPS FIELD TRIPS ARE OPEN TO ALL. Occasionally, numbers will be limited by the land-owners or agencies. We welcome you to join us to see and learn about our native plants and their habitats, to learn to identify plants, or to photograph them. If you are skilled in plant identification, you can help us all learn.

Please always dress in layers, wear boots or shoes you can hike in and bring food and water. You may also

All trips are by reservation only, so we know whom to expect, and how many will be attending each field trip.

want to bring a hat, sunscreen, binoculars, camera, plant list and useful references such as *Kern County Flora* and the *Jepson Manual*, or any book you like.

We try to meet at a spot where we can park some cars and car pool to our location to save the air, the gas, the money and make sure that on a "roadside" trip that we will have adequate space to park. CNPS does not arrange car pools; each person does so at the meeting place.

All trips are by reservation only, so we know whom to expect, and how many will be attending each field trip. Each trip will have the contact person listed. Please email the contact person by two days before the field trip and indicate the names of those who will attend.

IMPORTANT: If your or your party's plans change and you will not be attending, it is critical for safety, planning and courtesy reasons – that you call or e-mail the contact person and let them know you will not be there

March 8, Saturday

ATWELL ISLAND with **Jihadda Govan**
(and possibly PIXLEY VERNAL POOLS)
Contact: **Lucy Clark** – lucyg391@gmail.com
RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, Thursday, March 6th**

Atwell Island in Tulare County is a BLM property purchased from farmers and re-vegetated with Valley natives for the purpose of providing habitat for threatened, endangered, resident and migratory birds. It is an interesting view of what the Valley might have looked like before dams and development. For information, please look at their website:

www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bakersfield/Programs/atwell_island.html

This will be a drive-and-walk trip, with opportunities to learn what all of those plants we see from our car windows really look like. We will be guided by **Jihadda Govan**, the BLM-Atwell Island Project Manager.

This may be a half-day trip unless rain has fallen and the vernal pools have formed at the **Pixley Preserve**. Please read about this preserve held by the **Center for Natural Lands Management** at their website:

www.cnlm.org/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=66&Itemid=213

and see the pictures of this amazing land and plant formation.

We will meet at 7:30 am to form carpools (reflecting your time constraints) behind the Del Taco on Merle Haggard between Hwys. 65 and 99, in the far back parking lot. We will leave ASAP. Bring a lunch and water. Please contact **Lucy** at the above address to RSVP. We should know by then if the Pixley Preserve has had enough rain to form the pools.

March 15, Saturday

VALLEY FRINGE PORTION OF TEJON RANCH
with **Scot Pipkin**
Contact: **Patty Gradek** – pattygradek@gmail.com
RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, Thursday, March 13th**

Scot Pipkin, Public Access Coordinator for the **Tejon Ranch Conservancy**, will be leading us on an early spring field trip through the portions of the Ranch that border the Valley. The Tejon Ranch is a beautiful place in the spring and we're hoping for great displays in these lower elevations. Plan on this being a full-day trip. The meeting place and time will be determined later so we can see the best displays. Those who RSVP will be given the meeting place and directions and the time we will meet. **Pets and smoking are not allowed on the Tejon Ranch.**

You may want to bring the Tejon Ranch plant list



Photo courtesy Tyler Cross

Atwell Island — a model wetlands restoration project.

Photo: Scott Pipkin



Clouds over Tejon Canyon

available on our chapter web site: kern.cnps.org, as well as any other references that are appropriate. If you have a four-wheel drive or an AWD, please bring it to help fellow members. Please notify **Patty Gradek** at pattygradek@gmail.com if you plan to attend, by 8 pm on March 13th. We have also invited interested members of the **San Luis Obispo Chapter** to come. We have to inform the Conservancy of the numbers that will be attending. We will also be accompanied by docents for the Conservancy who will be learning along with us!

April 5, Saturday

SHELL CREEK ROAD AREA

with the **San Luis Obispo Chapter**

Contact: **Patty Gradek** – pattygradek@gmail.com

RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, Thursday, April 3rd**

We are planning to join members of the San Luis Obispo Chapter for their annual field trip to this beautiful area. This area is to the northwest of the **Carrizo Plain National Monument** and the field trip planners for the SLO chapter are still developing their plans for this trip. We will plan to meet at the parking lot of the BLM office at 3801 Pegasus Drive but the exact time will be given to those who RSVP. This will be a full-day trip since the drive to the site is at least two hours. It is well worth it for any of you who have not seen this area!

Please RSVP to pattygradek@gmail.com by 8pm on April 3. Patty will give you the time we will meet and further details on the trip.

April 12, Saturday

CARRIZO PLAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT
with **Denis Kearns**

Contact: **Patty Gradek** – pattygradek@gmail.com

RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, Thursday, April 10th**

The **Carrizo Plain National Monument** is a very special area. **Denis Kearns**, BLM Botanist, will lead us on this trip. The trip will be limited to 20 people due to limits prescribed for such tours in the BLM Management Plan. Therefore, if you want to attend we suggest you contact **Patty Gradek** at pattygradek@gmail.com early, because no more than 20 will be allowed to participate.

The Carrizo Plain is a magical, beautiful place. Denis may have us assist with plant monitoring for a portion of the day.

Please meet at the parking lot of the BLM office at 3801 Pegasus Drive at 8:30 am for carpooling. It will be best to use four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles to get to some of the special sites. We will leave promptly at 8:45 am. This will be a full-day field trip. There are restrooms at the Visitor Center.

April 19, Saturday

MILL CREEK OFF OLD KERN CANYON ROAD
with **Clyde Golden**

Contact: **Lucy Clark** – lucy391@gmail.com

RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, Thursday, April 17th**

This is a relatively close place to see many beautiful plants along a fairly level trail, from the hemiparasitic, naked broomrape, to California Indian pink, to a tiny yellow and white poppy. Hopefully, we will also be able to see in Mill Creek, the California newt, known by the writer as the “red gummy newt,” in its most southern habitat. We look forward to seeing many of the plants in Clyde Golden’s photos, viewed at the January 16th Potluck.

This trip can be a half-day or a whole-day trip, depending on your needs. Meet at the Tuesday Morning store’s parking lot on Fairfax and Auburn, off HWY 178 at 7 :30 am to form carpools. People who need to leave before or just after lunch can ride together.



Photo by Tarek

Chia (*Salvia columbariae*), Blue Dicks, and Phacelia on hillside above Old Kern Canyon Road

Bring lunch and water. Boots not needed, unless there has been recent rain.

Please bring your Easter guests, and show them Kern's interesting and beautiful native plants.

April 26, Saturday

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY PROPERTIES
with **Zach Principe**

Contact: **Lucy Clark** – lucyg391@gmail.com

RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, Thursday, April 24th**

The Nature Conservancy now owns/ manages or holds conservation easements over three ranches north of Caliente off Hwy. 58, at elevations from 1,000 to 5,800 feet. Last year we explored several of these beautiful properties with Zach, ecologist of the TNC. The plant viewing and keying were great! Zach will lead us again into places most of us will not have seen before, to help him list the native plants there. This will be a full-day trip, so bring your lunch, snacks, and water. This is a driving trip with stops to get out and look at plants, see the grand views, and picnic in a beautiful place!

Meet at the Taco Bell parking lot at 8 am, corner of HWY 58 and Weedpatch Hwy. (184), to form carpools. We will meet Zach at 8:45 am at the US Post Office in Caliente. Please bring your four-wheel drive vehicle if you have one; depending on the best location as determined by Zach, there will be steep hills. Tehachapi and Mojave folks are welcome to meet us in Caliente.

Please contact Lucy as listed above, and let her know how many people you can help carry in your four-wheel drive.

May 3, Saturday

BITTER CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
with **Pam DeVries**

Contact: **Patty Gradek** – pattygradek@gmail.com

RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, May 1st**

The Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge is a very special place and it's open to the public only by permit from the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**. **Pam DeVries**, professional botanist, helped us to obtain the permit to enter the refuge for this field trip. The permit limits this trip to 20 people. Therefore, if you want to attend we suggest you contact Patty Gradek at pattygradek@gmail.com early, because no more than 20 people will be allowed to participate.

The Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge protects the habitat of a variety of animals and plants, including California condor, golden eagle, prairie falcon and the San Joaquin kit fox. The refuge also contains rare plant species such as *Eremalche parryi* ssp. *kemensis*. Our botanical walk of approximately one mile will take place in an area selected by Pam DeVries and approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Meet at the "Park and Ride" at the corner of Real Road and Stockdale Highway at 7:30 am to form carpools. We will leave by 7:40 and will arrive at the refuge at 9:00 am. Wildlife Biologist Jason Storlie will meet us at the refuge headquarters and will give us a brief talk on the refuge and their current monitoring efforts prior to starting our walk. This will be a full day field trip and there are restrooms at the refuge



Cactus garden at CALM

Headquarters.

May 4, Sunday

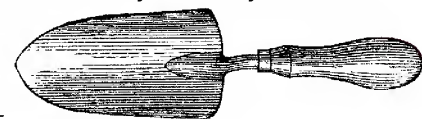
California Living Museum

with **Don and Vonnice Turkal**

Contact: **Lucy Clark** – lucyg391@gmail.com

RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, Thursday, May 2nd**

GARDENERS' ALERT! Join us for a plant community tour of CALM, our local native plant garden and California critter zoo. This is an opportunity to see native plants, full-sized, out of a one-gallon pot, and perhaps in bloom at this lovely time of year. Don and Vonnice are CNPS members and docents at CALM, and have developed an information sheet for other docents, which they will offer to us.



The Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge is important in the protection of condor habitat.

Meet at CALM, 10500 Alfred Harrell Hwy., at 1 pm for a two-hour tour of plants which are grouped in their plant communities, so water can be regulated to their needs. The cost will be **\$9 for non-CALM members**, **\$7 for seniors**, a donation to keep this wonderful, educational addition to Bakersfield and Kern County functioning. Perhaps you will want to join!

May 10, Saturday

Higher Elevation Portions of Tejon Ranch with Mike White

Contact: **Patty Gradek** – pattygradek@gmail.com

RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, Thursday, May 8th**

Mike White, Tejon Conservancy's Conservation Science Director, will be leading us on a field trip to the higher elevations of Tejon Ranch. Plan on this being a full-day trip. The meeting place and time will be determined later. Those who RSVP will be given the meeting place and directions and the time we will meet. Pets and smoking are not allowed on the Tejon Ranch.

You may want to bring the Tejon Ranch Plant List available on our chapter web site: kern.cnps.org, as well as any other references that are appropriate. If you have a four-wheel drive or an AWD, please drive it to help fellow members.

Notify Patty Gradek at pattygradek@gmail.com if you plan to attend by 8 pm on May 8th. We have to inform the Conservancy of the numbers that will be attending. ☼

POSSIBLE MID-WEEK FIELD TRIPS

THE CHAPTER IS ALSO PLANNING MIDWEEK field trips depending on how the season temperatures progress and weather forecasts. Members will be notified by e-mail when these field trips are scheduled along with the meeting place, time and approximate duration.

Richard Spjut, botanist and chapter member, would schedule the following possible trips:

East Kern Canyon Trail along the Kern River near the southwest area of Lake Isabella. This could be scheduled in late March if conditions permit. The trail begins at Hwy. 178 and Delonegha Road. There are gradual elevation changes as the trail parallels the river through open hillsides of grass and oak. The trail ends at Keyesville. There can be excellent wildflower displays along this trail from mid-March to late April.

Fay Ranch Road Ecological Preserve near Lake Isabella could be scheduled in early April. There is limited parking in this area.

Long Canyon Research Natural Area could be scheduled in mid-April. It is reported to have many rare plants.



Mountain Spirit Center in Sand Canyon

Telephone Ridge in the Greenhorn Mountains is approximately two miles west of Sunday Peak. This trip could be scheduled in late April.

Northeast of Tehachapi. This area includes the canyons and ridges east of Mountain Spirit Temple and west of the Pacific Crest Trail. This trip could possibly be scheduled in May.

Bull Run Creek in the Greenhorn Mountains could also be possibly scheduled in May. A trail starts at the end of the Cow Creek Road, 1¼ miles north of Greenhorn Summit on Forest Hwy. 90. Four-wheel drive is required for the last ½ mile of the road. The trail descends Cow Creek and to Bull Run Creek. It turns upstream and climbs gently 1½ miles into Bull Run Basin. A moderate climb up a ridge ends at Road 24S35.

Chapter members Patty and Dale Gradek would also like to return to the **Case Mountain area** near Three Rivers. It's a beautiful area managed by BLM and we could schedule that trip for late March or early April. ☼



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

CNPS is the leader for providing reliable information on California native plants and plant conservation. Comprehensive information about California's flora and vegetation communities is available throughout the state for conservation and educational purposes. CNPS's leadership influences personal ethics and actions, as well as public policy for native plant protection.

Chapter Meetings

upcoming TOPICS

Thursday, March 20, 2014 - 7 pm:

Rich Spjut, professional botanist and chapter president, *Rare Plant Associations*.

Thursday, April 17, 2014 - 7 pm:

Maria Ulloa-Cruz, Forest Planner for the Sequoia National Forest, *A Cross-Cultural Walk in Southern Chile: Agriculture and Wildflowers*.

Thursday, May 15, 2014 - 7 pm:

Susan Krzywicki, CNPS Horticulture Program Director, *Topic to be announced*.

Thursday, June 19, 2014 - 7 pm:

Trevor Meadows, Central Valley Biologist - River Partners, *Revegetation and Seed Propagation*.

Thursday, September 18, 2014 - 7 pm:

To be announced

Thursday, October 16, 2014 - 7 pm:

Denis Kearns, BLM Botanist, *Topic to be announced*.

Thursday, November 20, 2014 - 7 pm:

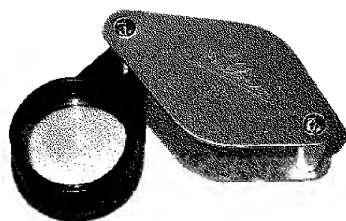
Randi McCormick, *Natural Land Revegetation*.

All chapter meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Hall Ambulance Community Room 1031 21st Street (21st & N St.), Bakersfield, CA.

Meeting times:

6 pm — Plant identification

7 pm — Program presentation



Join CNPS

ENJOY these benefits of membership in **California Native Plant Society**:

- Simultaneous membership in the state-wide CNPS and the local Kern chapter
- *The Mimulus Memo* — Kern chapter newsletter, published four times a year
- *Fremontia* — a botanic journal, published three times a year
- *CNPS Bulletin* — listing of state activities and events
- Access to a wide range of local and statewide activities
- Discounts from nurseries, stores, magazines and other partners.

Join online at www.cnps.org or the link at the top of home page at kern.cnps.org. For those who would rather join by mail, send your check payable to CNPS to:

California Native Plant Society
2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816-5130

Rates:

- Student/Limited Income ... \$25
- Individual \$45
- Family or Library \$75

THE 9TH ANNUAL BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE GARDEN FEST

Saturday, April 26, 2014
9 am — 4 pm

at Bakersfield College's Renegade Park
located on Mt Vernon Avenue just north of the stadium

The Bakersfield College **Garden Fest**, is an open house featuring the environmental, horticulture and agriculture programs that draws thousands of visitors to the BC campus. Over 150 participants host vendor booths and presentations featuring gardening, pets, farmer's markets, cooking, outdoor leisure, arts and crafts and environmentally-friendly home-improvement ideas.

Kern CNPS will host a table at this event where we will have a selection of native plants for sale. Volunteers to help man our table are appreciated. Our chapter will take pre-orders if you have a specific native plant you've been wanting. Send plant requests to Monica at dosportas@msn.com by April 10th.

April 12-20, 2014
Visit cnpweek.org
for events, activities
and information



Related Events — Local & Statewide:

GRANTS ~

APPLICATIONS SOUGHT BY AMERICAN PENSTEMON SOCIETY

Deadline for Submission: March 31, 2014

THE AMERICAN PENSTEMON SOCIETY IS SEEKING to fund small projects that focus on scientific or horticultural aspects of Penstemon, especially those that:

1. Promote conservation of Penstemon species in the wild, especially rare or sensitive ones, through understanding of factors that affect their survival
2. Promote appreciation for the diversity and beauty of Penstemons in wild and domestic landscapes, through horticultural research, dissemination of information of interest to gardeners, or the construction of enhancement of educational display gardens.

Applicants must be current members of APS and may join APS for the purpose of submitting a proposal. Grants of up to \$1000 are available.

Proposal Format: Proposals should not exceed five pages and must follow this format:

1. Project name
2. Name and contact information of submitter(s)
3. Requested funding amount
4. Objective of project
5. Background and rationale
6. Proposed methods and timeline
7. Itemized budget
8. Description of submitters' qualifications

The deadline for application is March 31, 2014, with funds to be distributed in May, 2014.

Submit proposals to: Dorothy E. Tuthill, via e-mail (dtuthill@uwyo.edu) or mail (Berry Biodiversity Conservation Center, Dept. 4304, Univ. of Wyoming, 1000 E. University Ave., Laramie, WY 82071)

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AMERICAN PENSTEMON SOCIETY CAN BE FOUND AT
www.apsdev.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ~

KERN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE NEEDS OUR HELP!

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, OUR CNPS CHAPTER helped plan a native plant garden at the refuge, located west of Delano. We worked with the originating employee and AmeriCorps members to build a path, and plant the chosen plants into the holes we had augered. It was a satisfying day for all of us.

Time has passed, the employee who organized the garden moved on, and some plants have died. The new Director of the refuge, Nick Stanley, would like to revive the project, and has asked for our help once again.

- We need a gardener to take charge of this project.
- We need a list of appropriate plants for the Alkali Sink community in Kern County. (I assume the refuge will get the plants).
- We need to choose a day to put the plants into the holes.
- We need some volunteers to go out and set the plants and say kind words to them.

Any suggestions for perennials, as well as forbs, and where to find these would be really appreciated! I am not really a gardener, I am a field-trip person, so if anyone likes short-term projects to plan and accomplish, here is a job for you! OR...if you can contribute ideas for plants, or like to play in the dirt, please let me know. We have three volunteers for planting at this point. A good start!

— Lucy Clark

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY & ACTIVITY ~

WIND WOLVES PRESERVE
NATURE FESTIVAL

Saturday & Sunday, April 12 & 13, 2014
7:30 am — 9 pm

WIND WOLVES PRESERVE IS A 95,000-ACRE non-profit nature preserve in the San Emigdio Mountains, 30 miles southwest of Bakersfield. They will be sponsoring a nature festival in April and are looking for volunteers who are willing to lead hikes, teach a class or provide a presentation, with the goal of encouraging people in the region to get out, and inspire them to love nature. The festival and all events will be free to the public.

Currently they have about 24 volunteer leaders — eleven hikes, two classes, two presentations and ten family activities planned so far. These include a beginning bird walk, wildflower art, an insect hunt for kids with nets and bug viewers, earth art (making temporary art with nature), face-painting, a live animal-presentation, and a scavenger hunt in nature.

The Coordinator, Megan Lundin, naturalist at Wind Wolves, is looking for a volunteer to lead a “*Gardening to Attract Birds and Butterflies*” event focused on gardening with native plants, so that visitors will know that they can make a difference even in their own neighborhood.

If you are interested in leading such an event, or have an idea for another event, contact Megan Lundin at lundin.megan@gmail.com or 661-858-1115.

You may see general information and photos of Wind Wolves at www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve/wind-wolves.html

To attend the festival, register starting March 12 at www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve/windwolves.html or call (661) 858-1115 or visit www.facebook.com/Wind-WolvesPreserve

ACTIVISM ~

HELP OPPOSE
PROPOSED AQUAHELIO SOLAR PROJECT
ADJACENT TO RED ROCK CANYON

Deadline: before March 18, 2014

MARK FAULL, RETIRED RED ROCK CANYON State Park ranger, is appealing to everyone to write letters to the Kern County Board of Supervisors in opposition to the proposed AquaHelio Solar Project adjacent to Red Rock Canyon. The DEIR (Draft Environmental Impact Report) will come before the Board on March 18th, so letters are needed before that date.

Mark’s plea reads, in part:

“This project would place nearly 3 million solar panels adjacent to and just south of Red Rock Canyon State Park. The Kern County Planning Commission just approved the project’s DEIR over the strong objections of our two local Planning Commission members. The DEIR will come before the Kern County Board of Supervisors for a vote on March 18th. **This may be our last attempt to thwart a scenic blight that will continue in perpetuity.** Solar power can provide wonderful benefits to our society, but only when it does not conflict with our existing infrastructure (such as a park) that is currently in place.

We are concerned that this could pass the Board of Supervisors on a similar 3 to 2 vote, wherein both our local Supervisors oppose passage, but the remaining supervisors approve the project over nearly unanimous objections from desert communities. We desperately need constituents from other portions of the county to write and lobby their supervisor to not approve the project as is. “

If you have loved and derived enjoyment from this unique, historic and picturesque spot in our county, consider defending it.

Contacts:

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Coordinator – Paul Gipe dosporlas@msu.com
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CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

The Kern Chapter of the California Native Plant Society meets the third Thursday of each month at Hall Ambulance Community Room, 1013 21st St. (21st & N St), Bakersfield, CA. Chapter Website: kern.cnps.org

The California Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of California native plants and their natural habitats, and to increasing the understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. CNPS has 31 chapters throughout the state and membership is open to all persons — professional and amateur with an interest in California's native plants. Members have diverse interests including natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking and gardening. As a Kern County resident, your membership includes Eremonia, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; the Bulletin, a statewide report of activities and schedules; and The Mimulus Memo, the newsletter of the Kern Chapter.

Join CNPS or renew your membership online at www.cnps.org.

Student/ Limited Income – \$25

Individual – \$45

Family or Library – \$75

Inside this Issue:



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FIELD TRIP DATES & DESCRIPTIONS
NATIVE PLANT GARDENING
MEETING PLACE, DATES & TOPICS